

How terrorism and its perception is shaped by mass media?

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Nowadays world is haunted by a ghost, a ghost of terrorism. Terrorism has become a biggest problem in the World. After the twin towers attack of United States on 11 September 2001, terrorism is recognized as global issue. Many governments started a war against terrorism after this incident. Washington made every possible effort either hard or soft power to eradicate this problem from World. Terrorism can be promoted by use of technology and mass media. Most of the terrorist groups and organizations have a large access to social media through which a fear is created among masses of the World. Sometimes the West broadcasting news channels became skewed, when it comes to associate terrorism to Muslim countries and resultantly creating a sense of Islamophobia. Such disparity can be minimized by adopting some favorable actions such as comparative analysis of situation and by objective Reporting approach. Such measures will prove fruitful as to protect Civilization from clash.

It is useful to start with the definition of terrorism first. According to Central Intelligence Agency(CIA), "Terrorism means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence and audience". In addition, McCormick describes global and domestic terrorism as planned use or threat of utilization of violence or aggression to accomplish a political goal by coercion of a targeted audience. However, Despite all these definitions terrorism is a complicated phenomenon and it cannot be explained by just one case or event. Some scholars stated that modern terrorism began with the French

Revolution in 1789. Other scholars such as Kaplan and Rapoport think that modern terrorism started in Russia at the end of 1880. Rapoport considers that terrorism comprises four main waves: Anarchist wave, Anti-colonial wave, new left wave and religions wave, all considered to be the forms of modern terrorism. He considers current terrorism is different than the four waves of terrorism. It could be considered as fifth wave of terrorism and he named this new wave as **technological terrorism**.

Mass media is playing a vital role in promoting terrorism. Contemporary terrorism cannot be explained due to the lack of common definition but new wave of terrorism can be best comprehend as the terrorist or organizations have reached their targets not only by guns, lone wolf attack or suicide bombing but also with propaganda on social media and mass media. Yonah Alexander thinks that the media provides a useful tool for terrorist organizations propaganda and psychological warfare. (Yonah Alexander, "Terrorism, the Media and Police " Journal of international affairs,48(1978). Mass media instigate terrorist to make use of technology and create a fear of physical terrorism.

Terrorist organizations gain popularity because of mass media. They attract masses toward by excessive use of social media and through their terrorist activities. For example, Al Shabaab broadcasted live on internet its armed attack to a shopping mall.( James P. Farwell, and Darby J. Arakelian, "Using information in contemporary wars" 2016). Similarly, ISIS broadcasted live on internet the killing of Turkish and Jordanian soldiers. (Farewell and Arakelian, "Using information ") . Mass media and social media is thought to a attention catcher of masses as they start investigating the situation through news and other facts.

Terrorist groups or organizations use mass media for the accomplishment of their targeted goals. For this purpose they make a excessive use of social media to communicate and coordinate with their members all around the world According to Secara new forms of social media like YouTube, Facebook and Twitter play a very important role for terrorist organization because they use these new forms of media to spread propaganda, training, recruitment, mobilization, coordination and communication,. Moreover, ISIS uses the internet and social media frequently than Al Qaida, while latter mostly uses internet forums. In 2015, there were coordinated attacks in three different countries on the same day. Three of them were organized by ISIS(Kathy Gilsinan, Terrorist attacks on Schools Have Soared in the Past 10 years", The Atlantic, December 17,2014). Through such tactics they use mass media successfully.

Broadcasting news channels and other media platforms arise a sense of fear among masses. After the physical acts of terror people follow the events from social media and get impact on human psychology. Asian countries such Taiwan, Japan and Korea face very terrorist acts but their worry about terrorism is quite high. Like Wilkinson thinks that relationship between media and terror is symbiotic. In such way media create sense of insecurity through such hefty coverages.

Media channels of West support the West propaganda relating to terrorism. They consider it as a global challenge and a major threat to their sovereignty . In 2011, after twin towers attack, Washington started a global war on terror by propagating and involving many countries of the West. Similarly, in 2003, they waged a war against Iraq and caused a regime change of Saddam Hussain without any evidence and proper information of atomic bomb and terrorist activities in Iraq. Through their intrigues and mighty will they exploit such helpless countries and achieve their goals.

Some of the West broadcasting news channels skewed in their broadcasting and sometimes publish such offensive reports. When it comes to terrorism they associate it to the Muslim countries and then

creating Islamophobia in their countries. In the West Muslims are not welcomed, they are badly treated at airports. A person is judged through his appearance such as person with beard and Muslim dress code is considered as a terrorist. In West, many incidents of blasphemy have been reported and a sense of hatred has been increasing for Muslims, day by day. This inferior behavior can be a cause of disparity among people and nation.

Some imperative measure should be taken in such scenario to avoid disparity. There should be a comparative analysis of everything, every situation. When a Muslim is considered as a terrorist by his appearance then similarly every white person should be judged on mental situation and ideology that he may harm through lone wolf attacks. The issues of oppressed nations such as Palestine, Kashmir and Myanmar should be solved on urgent basis. They would be given independence and basic rights. So, they do not feel compelled to do any wrong and engaging themselves in terrorist activities. All these things could only be achieved adopting righteous and comparative approach.

There should be more broadcasting channels of Muslims countries which could defend the and present the true picture of situation. Although Al Jazeera is broadcasting every true aspect of the circumstances of all problems but there should be some more broadcasting channels. These channel should broadcast every news fairly without any inclination towards any region or country.

The clash of Civilization can be avoided by eliminating the hatred emotions or disgraceful Conduct through Muslims and Muslims countries. Also by giving basic rights to minorities the problem can also be solved. By doing so they do not need to make use of power to get their basic right and in such way there will be peace and prosperity globally.

In a nutshell, although terrorism is a major problem in recent time but taking some useful steps it can be reduced and finally eliminated. For this purpose every person, community, organizations, governments, nations, and regions should play their effective role. By making proper use of mass media and social media, every should have a basic understanding and consequences of terrorist activities. Ample efforts should be made to promote education among masses to restrain the brain washing of young child from terrorists. By adopting all such measure the threat of terrorism can be demolished.